WENDELL POST

Wendell Old Home Day 1991 ...

Showers could not dampen our spirits

Vol. XIV no. 3 SEPT. - OCT. 1991 50¢ please!

OCTOBER FEST!

The Wendell Grange used to hold a fair and supper after children were back in school. Not only was schoolwork put up in Town Hall, but "There were vegetables on display", Lucille Lewis remembers, "and canning. They were judged by the Extension Service people." She said the Grange fairs went on until the 1940's.

A Harvest Festival that will echo the spirit of those fairs is planned for Sunday, October 13, during the long Explorers Columbus Day weekend. It will be held on the common and in four of the buildings around it, rain or shine. Wendell Community Works is organizing it, with much help, as part of our commitment to strengthen the community around local economic initiative. We invite all to help celebrate a great year for apples, syrup and honey (among other things)!

Part of the 9-town North Quabbin promotion, "Celebrate the Harvest", and the wide publicity that surrounds it, the Wendell event may draw people from outside the area seeking rural scenery and character. Maps showing towns' events have been put at tourist information centers and at local businesses that serve tourists. They instruct people to "follow the North Quabbin leaf". Signs bearing the leaf logo will be put up at intersections with Rt. 2, 2A, 202, etc., directing visitors to Wendell (as well as New Salem, Warwick, and the other towns).

For Wendell and its visitors, the day will start off with a pancake and sausage breakfast at the Senior Center, (the menu is meat or vegetarian) organized by Susan Dunlany and the Green Hills Co-Op. Proceeds will help paint peeling Town buildings around the common. There will be a crafts fair and art exhibit by Wendell's creative people, a giant tag sale to benefit the schools, tours of a working homestead, and maybe the R.A.T.S.. A kitchen and garden showcase will exhibit the products of stove and soil. Food vendors will sell a variety of snacks and meals throughout the day. Strolling musicians will entertain from time to time.

Children will have a chance to ride a pony cart and participate in games led by clowns. Hayrides may appeal to teens of all ages!

A supper of fresh garden vegetables prepared in a delicious stir-fry and harvest pie is planned by People of Peace.

As a finale to the day's celebration, Wendell's premiere fiddler, Doug Tanner, along with Lynn Hardy of the Rude Girls and Diane Sinabria, who also appears with them from time to time, will do a bluegrass concert which will blend into a contra and square dance. The accompanying bake sale will benefit the library. Ticket proceeds will benefit Wendell community Works, which is preparing a service directory of the Town's businesses and its pool of skills.

Jonathan von Ranson

Festival Honors Work and Celebrates Bounty

Schedule of Events
Sunday, Oct. 13, 1991

Pancake breakfast-9am-noon
Senior center

Crafts Market-9am-9pm*

Giant Tag Sale 9am-4pm

Kitchen & Garden showcase 9am-9pm

Tours 10:30, 1, 2:30

Supper 4-6:30
Senior center

Hayride 7 pm

Concert & Dance 7-10pm
Town Hall *some may close earlier

WENDELL'S 210th

1991 is Wendell's 210th anniversary and the Wendell Historical Commission is celebrating it with a display of historic photos at Greenfield Community College. The display begins on October 7, Monday evening at 7PM with refreshments supplied by Greenfield community College and the Wendell Historical Commission.

Jean S. Forward
Co-Chair, W.H.C.

MEETING HOUSE FULL O' LIFE

Its been a busy summer at the Meetinghouse and we are looking forward to a busy fall and winter as well.

Mez and Gail have just finished a summer arts day camp (The Enchanted Forest) which many of the local children enjoyed for nine weeks. Their upstairs studio space is bustling with activity. Adult art classes are being scheduled. Check with Mez or Gail for more details.

Arts & craft sales and exhibits, yoga, tai chi, exercise & dance classes will continue to be offered. In the planning stages are monthly workshops on peace and environmental issues with guest speakers, videos etc.

Molly Kaynor has created a beautiful rendition of the Meetinghouse in pen & ink. So far it is being used as a cancelation stamp at the post office (check it out), and post cards are available. Thank you Molly! Many local folk are involved in helping to keep the space going. Thanks to all of you. If you haven't stopped by, please do and there is still time and space available if you would like to schedule and event or class etc. Help is still needed to repair the building in the form of labor, money and materials etc. Thanks again to all the beautiful people of Wendell & beyond.

Rosalie

WENDELL POST

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LETTERS

Dear Wendell Post,

I am a grateful recipient of the free community service for seniors that Lake Grove Maple Valley School offered this summer.

My situation was this: My small, well-insulated, passive-solar, new home probably doesn't need more than a cord of wood per heating season to keep me warm; I had more than that amount of seasoned hardwood right here; and I had planned to do the necessary further cutting, splitting, and stacking myself; BUT my funked-out hands needed more time to heal.

Having already called on my friends to rescue me last winter (which they wonderfully did in a splitting and stacking work party), I happily responded to the Maple Valley offer.

Thank you-- Rubin, John, Dave, and Andy and supervisors, Bob and Jim. Now I can enjoy fall coming on.

Dorthee

To the Community

I have lived in Franklin county for twelve years. since July 1990, I've lived in Wendell and have made this community my home. From an open-face rock ledge in the Wendell State Forest, I can look out over Franklin County and see the hills due west as far as Mt. Greylock. I can plainly see that if there was a nuclear mel tdown at Yankee Rowe, the winds would carry its deadly radioactive poisons to Wendell, as well as, to every other community in this county.

They can't tell us anymore "it won't happen." a complete nuclear meltdown has **already** happened at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union and a partial meltdown occurred at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania. We don't want Yankee Rowe to be the next.

The issue for those of us who live here-and who love this community-is plain and simple: if there's a catastrophic accident with a massive release of radioactivity at Yankee Rowe, we're not going to be able to live here anymore. Those of us who receive the highest doses of radioactivity won't be alive at all. Thousands will be plagued for years by the resulting cancers and leukemias. Those of us who would be lucky enough to evacuate the area won't be allowed to move back. This is what happened at Chernobyl.

I work as an independent documentary filmmaker and public radio producer. In January 1980, I travelled to Three Mile Island and interviewed residents who lived within a five mile radius of the nuclear plant about their first hand experiences going through the accident. My documentary, **VOICES FROM THREE MILE ISLAND**, was broadcast nationally over National Public Radio and published as a book by the Crossing Press.

The residents told me stories of sheer chaos in trying to evacuate the area. They told about how they were continually lied to by the utility company and the federal government.

I interviewed farmers who reported high increases in birth defects, still borns and miscarriages among their farm animals following the accident. the birds completely disappeared for several weeks. The leaves in many trees downwind from the plant withered and died like fall leaves in the spring. The animals and plants are outside in the environment and were the first to show the effects of radiation poisoning. No one knows for sure what all the effect have been on people, however several reports show high increases in cancers in that area.

The concerns of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are too narrow for us. They're concerned with propping up the failing nuclear industry. The real issue for them is not the embrittlement of the reactor vessel-it's the embrittlement of Yankee Rowe's profit margin. Let's face it-money is their bottom line. But our health and safety is not worth their gamble. Given the aging condition of the nuclear reactor, the risk of a catastrophic accident at Yankee rowe is much too high.

How dare they gamble with our lives and the future of our community! Yankee Rowe must be shutdown **immediately!**

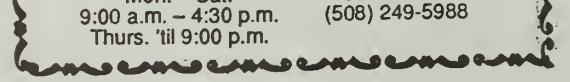
I urge all community residents to speak out, write letters, attend protests, become involved in whatever way you can to help close this dangerous plant and help ensure the survival of our community.

Sincerely,
Robbie Leppzer

THANKS

To all the beautiful people who helped to make our first annual Peace Day such a wonderful event and for creating a beautiful vision to hold in our hearts every day all year. Peace and love to you all.

Rosalie



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To the Community

About two months ago I learned that one of my favorite swimming spots in Wendell, Twin Ponds, had been deliberately polluted. Someone had come and poured gallons of oil all over the concrete pier where bathers often sit, and this oil spilled into the pristine pond waters. When I heard about this I felt as if I had been punched in the gut. How could anyone do something like this? I felt anger, horror, outrage and most of all, a very deep sadness.

Since hearing this news, I have heard a lot of rumors about who was behind this act of ecocide and why. I heard that certain people are angry and offended that some of us swim nude at the pond. I heard there was a verbal confrontation between swimmers and someone passing by in a truck just hours before the deliberate oil spill.

One thing I know for sure is this: Whoever committed this act is a coward and sadly misguided. It's "easy" to express rage by dumping oil on the earth under the cover of darkness. It's much more difficult to come face to face with the people you are in conflict with, whose values and lifestyle you find challenging and threatening, in order to talk and work out our differences.

As one of the nude swimmers of Twin Ponds, I welcome anyone in this community who has a problem with this to step forward and talk to me about it. I commit myself to listen to your concerns in a respectful and open-hearted way. Just leave Twin Ponds and our Mother Earth alone! Don't make the Earth suffer anymore for the differences we have between us humans.

I hope that the appropriate steps are being taken to find out who was responsible for polluting the pond and that this person or persons will face consequences for what they have done. The life of the pond, and of the planet, depends on all of us holding ourselves and the polluters accountable for the damage we inflict upon the Earth.

I would be happy to join in any community effort to help restore the pond to its pristine state as well as to protect the rest of our precious environment in Wendell.

In Peace
Sara Morningstar

RECONTEK LOOMS

It's been a while since I've written about Recontek (the Hazardous waste, heavy metal recycling facility proposed for Orange, 1/3 mile from Mahar High). It's been a while since I've acted on it too. Before the summer, I was more active working with the opposition in Orange. Now that life begins to resume its school year cycle, I'm beginning to move away from farming and vacation mentality (not willingly of course) and towards reality. Recontek still LOOMS!

The opposition in Orange is a varied assortment of individuals and groups who have worked through the summer, ever vigilant, monitoring State and local procedures. Currently there is an anti-Recontek petition, a newsletter near completion and regular meetings...As much as summer presents a different pace for some, the process of big business and government grinds ever onward, full time for many but only salaried for some. No one pays a citizen for hours of personal time researching and investigating so as to protect the environment. Ironically, the reality of democracy, which allows us to oppose fully paid government sponsored industry, does not allot matching or even supporting funds for those in opposition and thus proves to be ill balanced.

What continues to strike me, is the proximity of this facility near our high school and Orange's town water. Wendell voted unanimously at annual town meeting and by majority by Town referendum, to consider joining a different school if Recontek were to happen. This summer, State legislation was passed allowing parents to request a school committee of another school permission to enroll their child there. Money would then be transferred from the Town school budget to the school of preference if space were available. This legislation seems to present answers to some logistical and financial problems expressed by voters during pre-vote discussion.

I don't really see this as a satisfying nor a hopeful alternative. We don't want to be forced out of a relationship with Orange even though we **might** have a place to go. We just don't want that plant near our school.

The majority of Mahar staff and faculty signed a petition against the plant. During the week of 8/20, the Mahar School Committee finally voted by majority against the plant after prior votes expressed other percentages. Current EPA revelations about the Recontek plant in Illinois present negative and incriminating information about procedures. More voters find that alone is material for opposition. There are Town officials in Orange who still favor the plant and there remain three school committee members who voted yes despite majority of town and school staff opposition. Perhaps they would appreciate hearing from their constituents.

Many people wonder what they can do. I asked several of the opposition to help me answer that question. We recommend contacting friends in Orange to discuss the issue, asking them to contact relevant town or school officials and asking them to commit themselves to supporting the majority opinion; reading the newsletter; helping with door to door education or fundraising; attending a meeting; joining CPHS (Citizens for Public Health and safety) or sending them a check; believing that whatever action you choose will help.

Whenever I am at Mahar, I ask random students how they feel about the plant. Never have I found a student in favor, although I know some do exist. But the majority, although not always correctly informed, do know there is some toxic plan for their horizon and have healthy skepticism about the safety of that site. students remember the toxic history of our country as well as we do and know whom to trust.

There we are at a sport's event, deeply enjoying the crisp fall air, the relatively clean autumn. The competitors sweat, pant, gasp, inhale, to refuel their lungs. What's that over yonder trees? A facility; a facility of what? FACIL comes from Latin and means easy. Facility- to make easy! What and for whom?? Why can't the local officials use foresight and vision and offer a facility to the town and abutters that we can be proud of? Recycling of paper, glass, solid metals is essential and will offer the towns jobs, an expanded tax base, a future.

The students are not willing to concede to the pressure of big business. Are you?

Nina Keller

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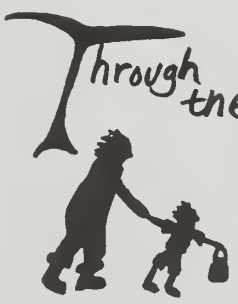
Through the Woods Childcare....
DAY, OVERNIGHTS, VACATION
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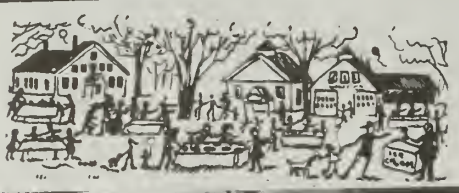


OLD HOME DAY ~1991~

'ON THE COMMON'

We strutted

We danced . . .

We bought, We sold . . .

We got wet

& laughed . . .

And went Home

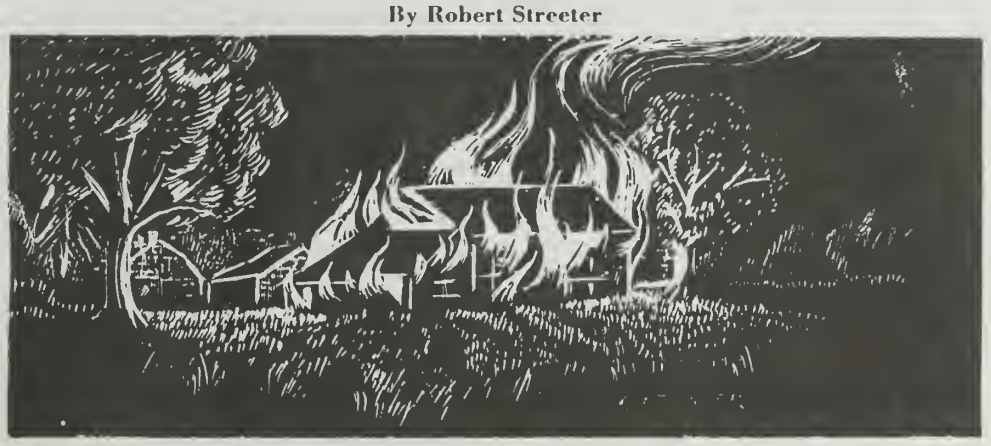
FEELING GOOD

We had music & food . . .

We socialized

Two faces of fire

By Robert Streeter



It is happening again, just like it happens every winter in nearly every rural town. But this time it is close; a neighbor. Another neighbor brings word and I run, fire extinguisher in hand, toward the rising, gathering smoke.

My effort is useless, almost comical, as I consider the juxta-position of 30-foot flames and a man with his little red fire extinguisher. All hope has been burned. The two-story house is in firefighting vernacular, "fully involved." A sub-zero wind whips the fire toward lighter shades of heat, feasting at tragedy's table, and we watch. The propane tank has been shut off, the volunteer fire department called, and we wait, shaken at the sight.

Nobody is home. The husband left early for work, his wife and two young children journeyed south for Christmas shopping. Knowing what they will return to leaves me hollow, motionless in the cold wind. I try to erase thoughts of the unknowing family while I watch pieces of their life consumed by an uncaring force, flames and smoke which slowly vanish in the winter sky. Empathy is at once a ruthless and vital emotion.

A fire truck crests the hill on our empty dirt road, perfunctorily sounding its siren. The lone fireman maneuvers the old tanker into position, 50 feet from the nearly gone house. Several more firefighters arrive in pickups and cars, and the chief barks orders like a marine before battle, rushing ashore to face the enemy. But the enemy has all but surrendered, running out of fuel, and the yellow-clad volunteers turn their only hose toward the nearby garage, a hot but intact structure that also would have burned had the wind come howling from the opposite direction.

I am cold, frozen from the wind, but still not ready to leave for the warmth of my cabin. I move closer to the ember-filled basement and a few burning beams, and experience an odd feeling of guilt for warming myself on flames which have brought new pain to a family of four.

Now I witness the pain. A car arrives with the husband, and he jumps from the vehicle and trots toward the ruins. He is hugged by friends. There is shock on his face, but no tears. A phone call told him what to expect, but no amount of mental gymnastics can reduce the shock of seeing a smoking basement where home once stood.

"I did my shakes on the way here," I heard him say, and tonight they will happen again when his family returns. But now he tries to lighten his load joking once or twice with firefighters because "I've got to." He walks closer to the embers, hands in his pockets, surveying the still-standing chimney and the emptiness around it, and he slowly keeps walking, slowly keeps talking.

The two faces of fire have warmed and chilled me on this winter morning. I think of the millions of tiny tame fires across the north, safely contained in our homes by elements born from rock. We domesticate fire for our own survival, but fire is never inherently tame like a dog. Fire has no genes to tinker with. no mind to train. It is the same today as it always has been. Give it food and it grows, give it water or steal its air, and it dies. It is safely a source of life while burning in our boxes of rock. traveling skyward through tunnels which insure our control. But the smallest mistake, the loss of its leash and it will, unlike a dog run away with much much more than itself.

FIREFIGHTERS GET HELP

The officers and members of the Wendell Fire Association wish to thank all those who contributed to the Wendell Old Home Day Tag Sale fund raising effort. Your contributions were a great assist to our fire department.

Citizens of Wendell offered much needed support services in providing nourishment to firefighters while they were extinguishing a forest fire behind Fiske Pond in August ,Those who so generously helped out were Annie Hartjens, Elsie Diemand, Margo Culley, and Marjorie Lewis.

Tom Reidy of New Salem and Warren Willard of Wendell each loaned a boat for department use to transport equipment to the scene. Many thanks to those in our community who are willing to help in an emergency.

LIBRARY NEWS

TEN EASY WAYS TO HELP OUT THE LIBRARY
Find one that's suited to you
!

One. GARDENERS. Drop by hardy flower bulbs for our front garden between now and October 30th. The daffodil garden was inadvertently submerged when the building drainage was improved.
Two. CARPENTERS. Volunteer your skill to replace our basement floor. The present floor is warped and buckled due to Spring flooding three years ago. A new floor will help make the basement a more useable library space.
Three. PERFORMING ARTISTS. Donate a copy of your audio-tapes. Its great for our collection and great promo for you.
Four. AMHERST COMMUTERS. Provide a ride from Wendell to Amherst each Thursday between noon and one p.m. for our invaluable volunteer, Rachael Perkins, retired librarian.
Five. CAMCORD ENTHUSIASTS. Donate a copy of your town-event videos, such as the Gym Show or Old Home Day.
Six. Participate in Martina Carroll's fund drive to make up the $700. for the library voted down in the over-ride. 70 library lovers would do it!
Seven. Become a regular volunteer. Commite yourself to a two hour shift each week to keep the place running. Catalog books, reshelve, file, help with circulation. We train!
Eight. Join the Friends of the Library. Friends fund raise for special projects and produce special events. Acting chair person: Phyllis Lawrence, 367-2175.
Nine. Be appointed to the Library Board of Trustees. One space currently open. Commitment: a monthly meeting and some support work in between. The Trustees decide overall library policy and goals.
Ten. As always, try to get library materials back on time.

One new service your library is now providing for you: PHOTOCOPYING during all regular library hours. (Many thanks to the Friends group for making this project possible.)

Ten new titles at the library.
Non-fiction
1.) The Commanders, Bob Woodward.
2.) Drumming at the Edge of Magic, Mickey Hart.
3.) The Woman of Wyrrd, Lynn Andrews.
4.) Listen and Learn Spanish, (thre audio-tapes and booklet.)
Fiction
5.) "H" is for Homicide, Sue Grafton.
6.) Significant Others, Armstead Maupin.
7.) The Dreaming, Barbara Wood.
Juvenile non-fiction
The Magic School Bus Series
8.) Inside the Human Body.
9.) At the Water Works.
10.) Inside the Earth.

Last, but certainly not least, many thanks to Mez Davis, outgoing chairperson of the Friends group and former library trustee. We will miss you!

Rosie Heidkamp

EARTH GRAPHICS
GRAPHIC DESIGN FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

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Guy with get-up, Josh Dostis, all gotten up at Peace Day

Store Delivers Free To Seniors

The Wendell Country Store provides free grocery delivery to senior citizens. Call before noon for same day delivery.

Also a reminder that Wednesday is 10% discount day for senior citizens.

Call 544-8646.

Need a hospital?

You don't have to go to Northampton or Greenfield. If you dismiss the Athol Memorial Hospital out of hand, you're missing out on a chance to utilize and support a vital community institution, where quality health care is provided by dedicated employees. And consider this: for most residents of Wendell, Athol Memorial is the nearest hospital.

Need a doctor?

You don't have to go to Amherst, Northampton or Greenfield. Find out about MDs practicing in Athol and Orange, including specialists in many fields who conduct regular clinics in the AMH Medical Arts Building. Call Allen Young, director of public relations, 249-3511, Ext. 143.

Athol Memorial Hospital

SEA VEGETABLE RECIPES

"When eaten in small quantities over aperiod of several months, they (seaweeds) can help to calm hyperactive kids, soften and relax rigid attitudes, and enable you to stand up under pressure with ease." Being by the ocean exerts a similiar influence on me, but when I cannot spend time by the shore, I serve up seaweeds in a variety of dishes, from soups to desserts! Hope you are able to try some of these in the near future-don't be shy-the more you use these new friends, the more ideas you'll fid for using them (I even read of a woman who places fronds of seaweed in her childres's baths-they pretend they are mermaids and dolphins as they soak in the mineral rich waters they are bathing in!).

Whether eating or soaking in seaweed, you will be protecting yourself from certain pollutants, heavy metals including lead and mercury, accidental radioactive leaks, chemical pollution and damage caused by exposure to carcinogens and teratogens, according to Susan Weed in her book Healing Wise. I would recommend the seaweeds, especially the kelps, for anyone healing after going throgh radiation, chemotherapy, extensive x-rays or concerned about the lead levels in one's blood. Regular use provides more than protection...the sea vegies also provide extra energy, thick ,lustous hair, strong nails, healthy skin and teeth, and a plant food extradinaire! ENJOY!

CARROT/ONION/HIJIKI-serves 4-prep time:20 minutes.

Hijiki is the richest of all the seaweeds in calcium and iron. In Japan it is used traditionally to strenghen the bones, revitalize the skin and hair. Even skeptical folks enjoy this dish and go on to try others!

1/2 cup hijiki(Ryan Drum's Sargassum can be substituted as can Arame)
1 cup warm water
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 onions, crescent cut
2 carrots, diagonal cut
1 tablespoon tamari

Soak hijiki in water for 20-30 minutes. Cut onions and cook in oil until very brown. Put the carrots in an even layer over the onions. Top with a layer of Hijiki. Add tamari and about half of the soaking water; cover tightly; cook till carrots are tender. (thanks to Susan Weed for this recipe from Healing Wise.)

SUMMER VEGGIE PICKLES WITH KELP
Thanks to Larch Hanson of Maine Seaweed Company

Parboil 1" squares of digitata kelp (or Kombu) 20 min. Drain and cool. Meanwhile, prepare equal quantities of thin onion half-moons, carrot ovals, green pepper squares, and cauliflower flowerettes. Arrange the sea and land veggies in a wide mouth glass jar. Bring to a boil 2 quarts of water with 1/3 cup sea salt. Let cool completely before pouring over assorted vegetables. Put a smaller jar on top of the vegetable pieces to keep them fully submerged. Cover with a clean cloth to allow pickle to breathe but keep out dust. Check in 10-14 days.

ONE-POT LENTIL DINNER W. WAKAME
from Kristina Turner's book The Self-Healing Cookbook

6" strip wakame (or Alaria esculenta from Maine Seaweed Company)
1/3 cup lentils
2 cups short-grain brown rice
1 parsnip or carrot
1 stalk celery
1 onion
pinch rosemary or thyme
2 pinches sea salt
5 1/2 cups water

Cut the wakame in small pieces. Wash the lentils and rice. Cut the veggies in small compatible shapes. Layer everything in an oiled baking dish with a tight cover. Add water, bring to a boil on the stovetop, then bake at 375 degrees for 1 hour.

Kristina writes that wakame is traditionally used in Oriental medicine to purify the blood, strengthen intestines, skin and hair, and is beneficial for the reproductive organs, and to help regulate women's cycles.

STRAWBERRY OR PEACH OR RASPBERRY CUSTARD
from the Self-Healing Cookbook. This is a definite hit, and an easy way to get young ones to eat a seaweed in disguise.

6 T. agar agar flakes (they have no taste or aroma, but make an easy jello or pudding. Also called kanten)
3 cups apple juice
1 cup water
2 T. sesame tahini
2 cups sliced strawberries, peaches or raspberries
3 heaping T. kuzu (or arrowroot)
2 T. apple juice
1 tsp. vanilla

Bring juice, water and agar agar to a boil. Simmer 10 min. Stir in sliced fruit and tahini. Dissolve kuzu in cool juice. Add to custard and stir until it thickens. Add vanilla and pour into dessert cups to cool and gel. Garnish w. fresh fruit.

SIMPLE, GOOD-FOR-YOU JELLO

1 QUART NATURAL FRUIT JUICE
3-4 t. AGAR AGAR FLAKES

Add flakes to liquid, bring to a boil and simmer 2-3 minutes, stirring until the agar is melted. Pour into dessert cups to cool and gel. Even kids can make this one!

Have fun!

Kate Gilday

Introductory Course In Aikido

Aikido is a relatively new martial art form being used by more and more Americans. It was founded some fifty years ago in Japan by Morihei Uyeshiba. The special quality of Aikido that makes it particularly enticing is that you learn how to diffuse an attack without having to harm the attacker. There are no punches or kicks in Aikido, instead you learn circular techniques to neutralize the atttack.

Other martial artists have often commented that in watching Aikidoists practice, they are often struck on how everyone is always smiling and having so much fun rolling and tossing each other around using the infinite techniques of Aikido.

Safety First

If you could reduce the risk of head injury to your child by 85% at minimal cost and inconvenience would you? With such a strong concern about children's welfare in our town I wonder why parents are letting their children ride bicycles (even with no traffic) without bicycle helmets. adults are at risk as well, but at least we can presumably make an informed decision for ourselves.

A study in the New England Journal of Medicine concluded that wearing a bicycle helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 85%. Hospital admissions indicate that head injuries are the most frequent type of cycling injury and the most serious. When the brain is seriously injured, a doctor can only provide the best conditions for recovery and hope for the best. Head injury victims can suffer personality disorders, confusion, fatigue, poor concentration, impaired judgment, irritability, depression, loss of senses, chronic headaches, speech impairment, memory loss, poor balance and coordination, mental slowness, sleep disorders, and the list goes on!

If the above scares you, it should. a few years ago hockey players never wore helmets. After a few began wearing them, more joined in, now they are mandatory. **FEWER THAN 20% REPORTED BICYCLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVE COLLISION WITH CARS; MOST INJURIES OCCUR IN FALLS FROM BIKES, OR AS A RESULT OF RIDERS LOSING CONTROL.** Bicycle helmets should be worn at all times. 80% OF BICYCLE RELATED DEATHS ARE DUE TO HEAD INJURIES. CYCLISTS WHO WEAR HELMETS ARE EIGHT TIMES LESS LIKELY TO INCUR BRAIN DAMAGE IF THEY SUFFER HEAD INJURIES.

Today's bicycle helmets are lightweight, well ventilated and comfortable to wear. Bicycle helmets are in children's sizes and will last years through their growth.

In order to be fully effective a bicycle helmet must be properly fitted. A helmet comes with foam pads which fit inside the rim to make it conform to the shape of the wearers head.

Purchase a bicycle helmet bearing a seal from a recognized safety standard association such as ANSI and Snell.

In order to be effective, a helmet must be worn properly- the helmet must not be worn tipped too far forward or back on the head. Helmets must be worn level on the head. The buckle under the chin should be adjusted so that it is snug without pinching. Helmets can only offer maximum protection the first time they absorb an impact

For those adults who are childless, I ask that you consider the above, the role model you portray and consider the affect a head injury would have on your life and those around you.

Helmets can be purchased for about $35. If folks combine orders they can receive further discounts.

Anyone can fall from a bicycle. I know a number of adults who's lives were saved by a helmet (having nothing to do with cars). An accident can happen anytime, even on short trips to the neighbors or to the store.

Enjoy the ride-SAFELY

Floyd Borakove

New Year 5752

The following is part of a reading some of us in the Jewish community shared during Rosh Hashannah (the Jewish New Year). I believe anyone regardless of their religion or no religion can appreciate these words and therefore I would like to share it with the community at large.

Selikhot
These are the closing moments of Elul,the Hebrew month of preparation. These are the final minutes of expectation, building toward the thunderous Shofar blast of awakening. These are the moments of Selikhot.

Selikhot is forgiveness; it is the prerequisite for a New Year. But what is "forgiveness"? How is it mastered? With whom is it shared?

Forgiveness is the courage to let go. One does not pardon another; one lets go of oneself, thus allowing pain received and sustained, hurt inflicted and imposed, to settle, and the true Self to rise,

Letting go. It sounds so easy, so simple; yet it is often the simplest of things that prove to be the most challenging. How is such simplicity and forgiveness mastered? There is only one path to Selikhot: discipline. Not the cold discipline of external law, but the warm heart-felt discipline of love and will. these come from our deepest Self. These link us to humanity, to life, to Mystery.

Our simplicity comes from our awesome awareness of Unity. Our forgiveness arises from the profound love Unity harbors. Our mastery comes from our inner will, self-directed, self-designed. Our humanity comes from our blending love and will.

Once Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai and Rabbi Joshua were walking in Jerusalem and came upon the ruins of the Temple. Rabbi Joshua lamented: ":Woe unto us! The place where our sins were forgiven is no more."

Rabbi Johanan replied:Let not your heart be heavy. We have another form of forgiveness which is its equal. It is the performance of deeds of loving kindness.

Mercy and wisdom lie at the heart of forgiveness. In the act of freeing myself from my false sense of fragmentation and alienation; in the process of re-membering my true nature as God in extension, I merge with all life. This merging brings great compassion as I begin to see myself in my neighbor and my neighbor in myself; the two of us bound at the Source to the ineffable mystery of God. Here is the simple fact and power of full forgiveness: we are One.

To forgive ourselves, our family, our friends, and to forgive the stranger as well. This is true Selikhot: the awesome power of living with a heart of compassion.

We fear most, or we so we say, that which is unknown. But the unknown is just that-unknown and therefore beyond fear. What we fear in fact is our projection of the known onto the unknown. What we fear in fact is our own shadow, our own darkside painted large across the canvas of the mind.

Selikhot is moving, moving beyond fear, moving beyond knowing, moving beyond failure, moving beyond success, moving beyond the shadow to the light.

Selikhot is letting go of fear, letting go of hurt, letting go of pain, letting go of shadows, letting go of self that we might re-member Self.

Moving beyond here and now.

Letting go here and now.

With this breath, with this heartbeat, with this pain and this suffering and this body and this life,-let go and move on; let go and forgive; let go and live.

Floyd Borakove

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SELECTBOARD NEWS

The Selectboard has submitted a Community Development Block Grant Application to the state Executive Office of Communities and Development for a program to assist low to moderate income families of Wendell.

The application includes requests for funding for 30 housing rehabilitation loans and handicap accessibility for the Wendell Senior Center and public service funding requests.

Housing rehabilitation loans are available to low income families for improvements to their homes, particularly weatherization and the elimination of building code violations. The program is based on Deferred Payment Loans -- no interest is paid on the loan and the principal of the loan is not paid until the home is sold.

To find out more about the program, contact Susan Miller at the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, 413-863-9781.

New to the program this year, applicants may opt to request funding for alternative greywater treatment systems -- instead of traditional septic systems. This is an innovative project to help solve the problem of septic system failures where the application of traditional technology is not appropriate.

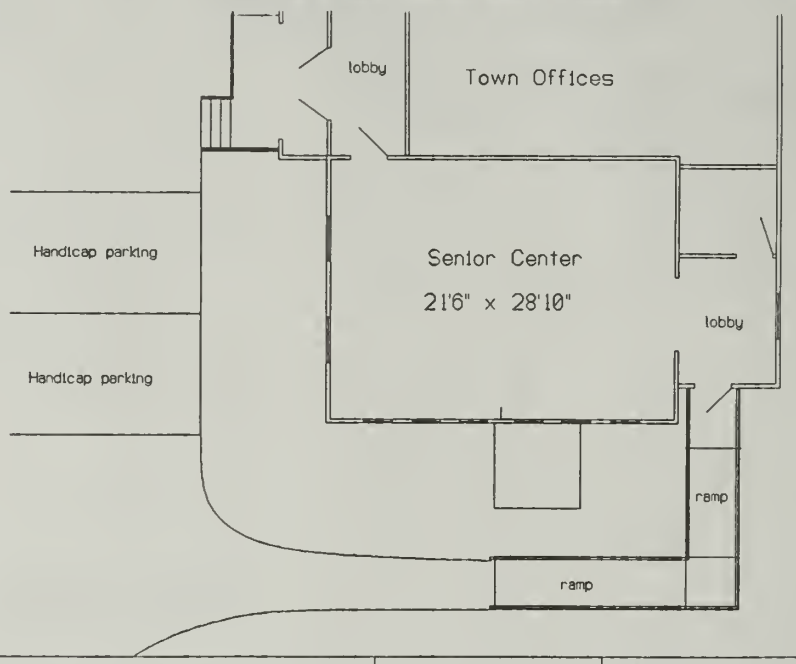
Particularly, the wet and rocky conditions in Wendell are not conducive to the development of properly functioning septic systems.

Alternative greywater treatment technologies also use less fresh water than traditional septic systems, which reduces the burden of shallow wells (many homes in Wendell have shallow wells).

To find out more about the greywater treatment project, contact Dorthee at 544-8961.

The senior center accessibility project includes the addition of a new entrance and entrance ramp to the center and renovations making the toilet facilities handicap accessible.

Proposed design for handicap ramp and toilet at the Wendell Senior Center.



WENDELL SENIOR CENTER

Scale	1/8" = 1'	Sheet	of
Revision	A	Date	August 16, 1991
Drawn by	Bud Davis Wendell, Ma.		
Approved by			

FIRE TRUCK REPAIRS

Special thanks to Pete Rooney for his many donated hours spent repairing the Town's Fire Trucks.

WENDELL SELECTBOARD MEETING

August 27, 1991 7:00 p.m.

Selectboard members Ted Lewis, Margo Culley and Anne Zak in attendance. Kathleen Ramsay, Administrative Assistant, also present.

Road Commissioner Michael Anderson and Highway Superintendent Daniel Bacigalupo informed the Selectboard of the need for funding for engineering for the bridge between Millers Falls and Wendell on Davis Road. An article requesting $1,250 for engineer's plans for the repair of the bridge will be placed on the upcoming Special Town Meeting (October 22) warrant. Montague and Wendell will share the cost of the preparation of the plans. Montague's Superintendent of Streets will prepare a grant application for funding for the repairs to the bridge.

Anderson, Bacigalupo and the members of the Board also discussed the need to hire an electrician to properly connect the generators to the central wiring at the Town Garage. During Hurricane Bob on Monday, August 19, emergency response personnel and members of the Highway Department were unable to use the central dispatch radio at the Fire Station because the electricity was out and the generators were not connected.

The Selectboard called a meeting of all emergency response department heads, the Road Commission and other intereseted parties to discuss emergency communications and disaster preparedness. The meetings will be held on Sunday, September 15, 1991 at 10 a.m. in the Selectboard Office.

To comply with state regulations, an alarm system for the grease trap at the Fire Station/Highway Garage must be installed. Kathleen Ramsay will make arrangements for the procurement of the alarm and its installation.

The Selectboard approved an exemption to the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law, allowing Road Commissioner Michael Anderson to perform and be paid for routine furnace repair work on the Highway Garage furnace.

Town Treasurer Judith Wilder informed the Selectboard that Town Treasurer is customarily the custodian of financial documents of the Town, such as insurance policies, fidelity bonds and deeds to all properties acquired by deed. The Selectboard agreed to locate and organize these documents and maintain these files in their office.

The Board will make arrangements to meet with the Zoning Board of Appeals to discuss re-organization of the Board after the recent appointment of two new members.

The Board discussed the shortfalls of deferring a portion of teachers' salaries into the next fiscal year, as authorized in the FY92 state budget.

The Board briefly discussed alternate maintenance arrangements for the Town Office copier. Due to the age of the machine and its heavy use, the Board decided to stay with copier maintenance provided by Xerox.

The Board was informed by the Division of Capital Planning and Operations that the transfer of the parcel of land for the New Salem Road Cemetery from the state to the town is moving ahead. There will be a public hearing on the transfer on Monday, September 9, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wendell Town Hall. If everything goes smoothly, the transfer will occur 60 days after the hearing.

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OIL MESS

Between the evening of Tuesday July 9 and noon of July 10, when it was discovered, someone deliberately and carefully poured and estimated 20 gallons of used and possibly new motor oil on the dam of the popular swimming pond known as Twin ponds, or Gentl's pond. The oil was discovered by potential swimmers Wednesday afternoon who were so disgusted that they did not swim.

Almost the entire dam was covered with oil, from the sand near the spillway, where the oil had soaked into the ground, over the rock and the cement wall where oil lay in puddles on the irregular surface. Oil covered the face of the dam, and seeped into the water creating a sheen that spread out toward the pond and then washed downstream toward the spillway. The top layers of the trash in the can, which is there against the owners' wishes, were soaked with oil, but there was little if any oil on the ground in the surrounding area. Whatever container had been used to bring the oil in had been carried away. Lack of tire tracks made it appear that the person who did it carried the oil on foot at least 50 yards.

The swimmers called Dave Walsh, a neighbor on the board of health, and went to the Clevelands' house to get a bale of hay which they put down to soak up the oil. Dave Walsh called Bob Bishop from Quabbin reservoir who came with pads and booms that absorb oil, but not water. He placed three booms in series downstream of the dam to absorb oil that washed into the stream, and pads on the water next to the dam to absorb the oil as it seeps from the concrete, a process that he said would continue through the seasons as water levels rise and fall. With help from the swimmers he covered the hay with a layer of plastic to prevent rain from washing more oil into the water.

On the advice of the Department of Environmental Protection, Dave called Carl Kuehner of Southampton Sanitary Engineering, who came with a boom to keep the oil sheen from spreading out over the rest of the pond. Carl said there is no practical way to clean the dam without dismantling it, which is illegal because that modifies a wetland; cleaners would put oil into solution with the water allowing it to go past the absorbant pads and booms, and downstream into Quabbin reservoir. He said eventually the oil in the concrete would degrade, but he did not say how long that would take.

The pond away from the dam seems unaffected.

Hurricane Bob blew the plastic off the dam, and DEP agreed that it could be removed entirely. As of September 15, everything except the hay has been removed and is sitting in piles near the dam. The site still smells of oil.

The bill, which will have to be paid by some combination of Ray Gentl, his insurance company, and the town is at least $3,000. If we had not acted, and had allowed the state to pay for the containment, the state would probably have billed us for three times as much, according to Carl Kuehner..

The board of health is working to develop a more systematic plan for dealing with similar events in the future, hoping to avoid some of the expenses that came from not knowing what to do.

Josh Heinemann

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Changes At Maple Valley

The Maple Valley School has been a Wendell institution for over twenty years. As the many locals who have been "Valley" employees will attest, the school has seen good and bad times. Under the directorship of Trish White, Maple Valley enjoyed a period of program stability while serving conduct disordered and emotionally disturbed teenaged boys. With Trish's departure on June 30th, the school moved into a period of uncertainty and change.

In 1988, Maple Valley was bought by Lake Grove Experience, a New York based corporation which runs two other special needs private schools. Maple Valley employees were assured affilitation meant stability and organizational support. Indeed the Wendell program changed little under the new ownership with LGE maintaining a largely hands off policy during Trish White's successful tenure.

The new director would be chosen from within, announced LGE president "Twoey" Brayson in July, by a four month director-for-a-month runoff (entrants to include local favs: Christine Heard and Bob Perrell.) The summer, however, was puncuated by a rash of runaways with students hiding out for days and sowing bad press in Greenfield. This combined with the (successful) graduation of five seniors caused the school census to drop steeply in August. At this point, the nervous LGE ownership stepped in with sweeping personnel changes. Veteran Lake Grove administrator and program trouble-shooter Gary Grant was appointed the new campus director. Grant took on the difficult task of stabilizing the school which included giving notice to some veteran employees.

On August 30, clinical coordinator John Christopher was unexpectedly fired (by executive director Claude Bahrenburg) over a policy dispute. Other long-term Maple Valley staff were phased out more judiciously the following week: (Christine Heard, Administrative Assistant-five years, Bob Perrell, Program Coordinator-nine years, Marty Moore, Residential Director).

These personnel cuts as well as the restructuring of leadership were directly due to the fiscal crisis, explained CEO Bahrenburg to the assembled Maple Valley staff on September 12. The layoffs were "overand we could relax and get back to work", staff was told.

During the last dozen years, Maple Valley has offered a healing alternative for hundreds of court ordered and special needs kids, most of whom have been victims of early trauma and abuse.

Under Trish White, Maple Valley developed a comprehensive clinical progam integrating individual, family, and group therapy.

It is healthy for the people of Wendell to be informed and concerned about Maple Valley. Please ask also, what is the healthy role Maple Valley can play in Wendell? What can Wendell contribute to these boys in our midst?? Those who live here should know of and be honored by the heroic personal risks they take to turn their lives around.

Daniel Botkin
Social Worker
Maple Valley

William and Paul Fisher enjoy playing with the Wendell Post Office's Stork Mascot as part of the on-going "WEE DELIVER" events throughout August and September.

Postmaster Charles O'Dowd encourages residents to come in to view the marvelous display of Indian Medicine Shield Collages constructed by the children in the Enchanted Forest Summer Arts Program.

Charles O'Dowd
Wendell Postmaster

ARTS LOTTERY/PASS MOVE TO ONE FUNDING CYCLE

There is no Fall funding cycle this year for all State Arts Lottery/PASS programs. There will be only one funding cycle for the fiscal year 1992 (FY92), possibly in the winter. More information will follow, as it becomes available.

The Massachusetts Cultural council (MCC) has had to cut its allocation to its local programs by over 60% for FY92 compared to funds allocated in FY91.

The MCC, itself, received a 72% smaller appropriation from the State for the same time period, but fortunately will continue to receive support from the National Endowment for the Arts. All preliminary planning for the future by the MCC will emphasize the development of new, long-term public/private partnerships to foster the arts, humanities and sciences in Massachusetts.

The Wendell Arts Lottery Council is holding a bake sale to augment its funds at the October 5th free concert of American Jazz at the Wendell Town Hall at 8p.m. and would greatly appreciate donations of simple to eat baked goods such as cookies, brownies and doughnuts from members of the community, as well as assistance in preparation for the concert.

Ina Phelps, WALC

Hi, Neighbors,

We'd like to take a moment to introduce ourselves. We are Karen Traub and Frank Citino, and we just moved to Wendell.

Karen is a Notary Public, an integrative acupressure practitioner, and an eduational consultant. Acupressure can be described as "acupuncture without needles." Integrative acupressure adds techniques similar to massage and chiropractic. Karen has a counseling background and provides trainings to schools and social agencies working with "at-risk" youth. She also plays the five string banjo and likes polka music.

Frank is the manager and part owner of ACI computers in Amherst and has a part time, start-up business creating 3-D holographic images. In his spare time Frank plays guitar and juggles.

In the few weeks that we've been here we've been warmly welcolmed at the Post Office, WRATS, library, and by neighbors. You've really made it feel like home to us, thank you! We look forward to being part of the community.

Karen Traub and Frank Citino

Peace Day

Longtime peace activist, FRANCIS Crowe, speaking with visitors to PEACE DAY, Aug. 4.

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HOW TO BE PART OF THE FESTIVAL!

Wendell residents can just come and have fun at the Harvest Festival October 13, or they can sell their extra and unused things in the giant Tag Sale, or exhibit their art or crafts in the Crafts Market and Art Exhibit.

The Garden and Kitchen showcase will let those who put up preserves, baked great pies, or who grow specimen garden vegetables and flowers (if spared by frost) display them...just for show, or for sale.

Finally, Wendell's home businesses, small enterprises, sidelines, cottage industries are urged to take booths or appear on a bulletin board that will be displayed prominently at the fair, which is to celebrate local productivity in all its forms.

Here are the details:

The Giant Tag Sale is to benefit the schools. It is being organized by Teri Koehler and Eileen Sauvageau. It will be located on the North part of the Common (north of Morse Village Rd.) and will open for business between 9-4. Setup starts at 8am. Space is free.

Sellers may either set up their own tables and sell their goods themselves, in which case it is suggested they donate 15% of their profits to the tag sale committee, which will donate them to the schools, or items may be donated in advance which will be priced and sold at tables by volunteers. These proceeds will go entirely to the schools.

To donate items, call Teri (544-7446) or Eileen (544-3223) by Oct. 7 to arrange pickup.

Rosalie Rosser is in charge of the Crafts Market and Art Exhibit. Artwork will hang in the Meetinghouse. Crafts booths will be set up on the common south of Morse Village Rd. Crafts exhibitors who wish to stay open after dark, during the hay rides and dance, will be set up in an area lighted with strings of lights. Call Rosalie at 544-6850.

To show or sell vegetables, fruit, flowers, or canned or dried foodstuffs, contact the coordinator of the Garden and Kitchen Showcase, Nina Keller (544-2857). For your exhibit or sale items, make out neat 3X5 cards describing the item displayed and whatever was noteworthy about its production. The cards must include the name and street address of the exhibitor or seller. If the item is for sale, mark the price prominently.

The display will remain open and staffed until 9pm, then put away for the night. The exhibits may be picked up by noon the next day (Monday, Discoverers Day).

It's fun to participate! If you have an idea and want to include it* contact one of the members of the Wendell Community Works Festival Committee: Jonathan von Ranson- chair (544-3758), Justin Idoine- food (544-2623), Ingrid Shockey- children's activities (544-6277) and Rosalie Rosser- crafts (544-6850)

*adults or children

Jonathan von Ranson

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FIRE LOG

7/20-7/21 — BRUSH FIRE, Sogard's Camp on Wendell Depot Rd.

8/2 - 8/3 — BRUSH FIRE, WEST ROAD BEHIND FISKE POND.

8/19 — TREE ON WIRES, WENDELL DEPOT ROAD.

• POLICE LOG •

7/25 Arrested Robert Neward on a warrant

8/15 Accident on Perry Farm Road; four wheeler and pickup truck.

8/15 Vandalism at Camp Anderson.

9/12 Arrested Robert Hughes on a Springfield warrant.

LAND TRANSFERS

Peter & Ann b. Humphry to John R. & Jennie O. Fair
Jennison Rd.-38.670 acres--2535-34
5/20/91

Marilyn alma miller Morin to David & Judith Wilder
Wendell Depot Rd. -1.5 acre and bldg, -2538-101
6/12/91

Lucy E. May to Richard J. & Dawn L. Lemesky
Rush Rd. -4.015 acres--and camp-2539--142
5/21/91

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Greetings!

I'm offering a new service in town, free of charge to all Wendell residents, and have been invited by "The Post" to introduce myself. "Wendell Information and Referral Service" offers information about hundreds of local and State programs available to meet the varied human service needs of our residents. Whether you're in need of housing, food, employment, job training, in-home support services, counselling or a support group...I can inform you of the programs available in this area to help you. I can also let you know what to expect when you apply for assistance.

Have you ever wondered if you're eligible for food stamps, fuel assistance, free medical care or free legal services? Call or stop by, I have the income guidelines for these programs & services. Most of the programs I'll be referring you to are, in fact, free of charge, or offer a sliding scale fee based on your income.

I have lived in Wendell for five years and have a varied background in Human Services that has put me in touch with most of the Social Service Programs in this area. I have also been active in the community as a volunteer. At the present time, I work for Franklin/Hampshire Community Mental Health Center, serving individuals in the Crises Treatment Unit and over the phone on the Crises Hotline. I am also an active member of the Western Mass Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and I'm in the process of developing a Parents/Teachers group at Franklin County Tech School.

If you, or someone you know, need help, please stop by, Saturday mornings, 9-11 at the Town Hall, or call 544-3395 (during these hours) for information, or an appointment. If you don't have transportation, I can arrange to meet with you in your home.

If you are providing a service in Town and are seeking referrals, please drop the information off any Saturday morning and I'll be happy to refer people to you.

Wendell I&R is open to all residents of all ages and **all services are strictly confidential.** Stop by maybe I can help you.

Nancy Graton

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WENDELL FULL MOON COFFEE HOUSE

STATEMENT OF BENEFICIARY POLICY FOR THE WENDELL FULL MOON COFFEE HOUSE

The Wendell Full Moon Coffee House evolved from a fund raising venture necessitated by a successful seven year battle to save Wendell State Forest from the encroachment of a state planned relocation of a section of route 2.

Upon our triumph, the popularity and success of the coffee house encouraged the all volunteer steering committee of the monthly event to continue producing it, granting the proceeds of each month to benefit the coffers of local environmental causes or organization.

Since then, the coffee house which takes place on the Saturday closest to the full moon each month, from September through June, has become increasingly popular. Potential beneficiary organizations and enthusiastic and more widely geographically based audiences have both become more numerous and demanding. Many nationally and locally eminent performers have applied to perform here. Additionally, our interpretation of "environmental" relative to the beneficiaries has been broadened to include educational, social and cultural as well as our physical environs and the concept of local has broadened to include more than just our town.

The purpose of this article is to inform the community and clarify our criteria and priorities for selecting groups and organizations eligible to financially benefit from the Full Moon Coffee House at the Wendell Town Hall.

The mission and purpose of the Full Moon Coffee House is, (with no prioritization), as follows:

1. To provide both the beneficiary group and the performer the highest possible financial return and exposure for our efforts.

2. To provide an entertainment and social resource for the "greater Wendell" community which includes the surrounding area.

3. To provide a venue to showcase up and coming local talent.

The steering committee of the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House will give the highest priority for beneficiary status to <u>those organizations whose efforts most directly, positively, globally and powerfully impact the quality of life of the largest majority of people from Wendell and the immediately surrounding area.</u> Additional considerations are that:

1. The income derived, usually in the range of three to five hundred dollars, be significant to the operating budgets of the organization or group.

2. The group has an organizational structure which allows for accountability and will dictate how the income is to be used and that it be willing to communicate this information to the Coffee House steering committee.

3. That the organization is sufficiently organized and peopled to enable it to put together and staff a satisfactory bake sale.

4. That the organization's membership policy is not restrictive or excusionary.

THE COFFEE HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE RETAINS THE SOLE RIGHT AND INDEPENDENT RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ALL DECISIONS REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARIES.

SUBMITTED BY MYRON BECKER,
BENEFICIARY COORDWATOR
WENDELL FULL MOON COFFEE HOUSE
(508-544-2086)

SCHEDULE

UPCOMING
FULL MOON COFFEEHOUSE PERFORMANCES

SEPT. 21	Joel Zoss & Special Forces
OCT. 19	Justina & Joyce
	Jim Henry & Joe Belmont
NOV. 23	Happy Truam
DEC. 21	Wendell Home Grown

OPEN MIKE AT 7:30
DESERT O RAMA
ADMISSION $5.00 to 10.00

RADIO SWING ORCHESTRA FREE CONCERT/DANCE

There will be a Concert of American Jazz (Dixie-Swing styles) staged by the Radio Swing Orchestra (R.S.O.) at the Wendell Town Hall on Saturday, October 5, at 8PM The event is free and open to the public.

Classic American Jazz is part of our Country's heritage, a truly American Art form. the R.S.O. presents this concert for people of all ages, providing nostalgic value for some and educational value for others. The big band era of the 30's and 40's is the primary focus. The concert may also include some R&B of the 50's & 60's and Rock & Roll of the 50's, moving from earlier to later music.

the Town Hall will be arranged for those wishing to sit and listen and for those wishing to dance to this very enjoyable music. the concert is funded by the Wendell Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Refreshments will be on sale for the benefit of the Wendell arts Lottery Council.

Ina Phelps

AIKIDO

A six week introductory course is being offerred at the Swift River School in Wendell. Participants will learn how to roll and fall, techniques for defense, the basic principles of Aikido and methods to reduce stress.

The instructor is Ria McRae a first kyu and a student of Ralph Chiaradia, of Hartford Connecticut, a fifth degree black belt in Aikido. The Wendell Aikido Club will be offering this six week course on Monday nights starting on September 30 for a nominal fee. The class will meet from 7:30 to 8:30. For registration call 508-544-2226.

Spiritual Environmentalism

Nuclear and toxic chemical pollution, increasingly erratic global weather patterns, deforestation -- is the Earth dying? How can an individual respond meaningfully to these worldwide problems?

These are some of the questions that will be discussed by Oregon environmentalist, musician, and hospice worker Cecelia Ostrow in a program entitled "Healing the Earth in a Time of Destruction." On Saturday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m. Cecelia will be at the Wendell Town Hall to share her stories, ideas, and original music. A suggested donation of $3-$6 would be appreciated.

During the early '80's Ostrow helped to organize some of the first nonviolent blockades of logging roads to call attention to the plight of ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest. She has toured the U.S. several times with Earth First! radicals Dave Foreman, Mike Roselle, John Seed, and others singing on behalf of wilderness and the old growth forests.

Author Edward Abbey wrote of Ostrow's music, " Her songs are beautifully written, beautifully performed, and go straight to the heart of the modern situation." Dave Foreman writes, "Cecelia's clear, pure voice lifts me to big trees, waterfalls, and birds. When she sings... she is Earth."

"In pristine wilderness I observe the elegance and power of four billion years of evolution," she remarks. "So I ask, how can we align ourselves with the intelligence that generates all this?"

For some of her answers Ostrow draws on her four years' experience as a nurses'aide working with terminally ill people. Ostrow feels that confronting the fear of death is a necessary first step to overcoming denial about the Earth's situation. "During my experience with dying people I came to believe that a lot of healing can happen at a death."

In her talk Ostrow draws parallels between individual human experiences of healing and of death and what she considers to be the desperate, possibly terminal, sickness of the planet.

"My hope," says Ostrow, "is the hope of healing. Healing does not deny or exclude death. It means becoming whole and knowing who we are in the grand design of life."

submitted by Shana Frank

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